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Making Optical Coupling Device" assigned to the assignee of the present invention, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. - -

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A method of making an arc tube chamber intermediate tubular end portions comprising the steps of:

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(a) providing a tube of vitreous material and positioning the tube so that its axis is substantially horizontal;

(b) heating a portion of the tube sufficiently to soften it in a predetermined area;

(c) axially compressing the tube to force the softened material in the heated area radially inward and outward around the circumference of the tube to thereby thicken the tube wall in the heated area;

(d) repeating step (b) and step (c) in areas of the tube proximate to the previously thickened tube wall at least one additional time to thereby thicken the wall of the tube over an axial distance approximating the length of the desired chamber;

(e) heating the thickened wall area of the tube;

(f) positioning a mold having a chamber cavity of a desired shape over the heated thickened wall area, the chamber cavity being asymmetrical in horizontal cross-section;

(g) internally pressurizing the tube to expand the heated thickened area of the tube against the internal wall of the mold cavity to thereby form a chamber in the tube; and

(h) removing the mold from the chamber to thereby provide an arc tube chamber intermediate open tubular end portions.

Please cancel Claim 7 without prejudice.

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8. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the mold cavity is positioned with a flattened side up in step (f).

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10. (Amended) The method of Claim 9 wherein the mold cavity is positioned with a flattened side up in step (f).

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13. (Amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein the bottom of the mold cavity in the longitudinal center thereof is flattened over a distance between about 50 and about 60 percent of the mold cavity.

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- - 18. (New) A mold for forming a bulbous arc tube chamber intermediate tubular end portions in a formed body arc tube, said mold defining a cavity having a flattened side.- -

- - 19. (New) A method of making an arc tube chamber intermediate tubular end portions comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a tube of vitreous material;
- (b) heating a portion of the tube sufficiently to soften it in a predetermined area;
- (c) axially compressing the tube to force the softened material in the heated area radially inward and outward around the circumference of the tube to thereby thicken the tube wall in the heated area;
- (d) repeating step (b) and step (c) in areas of the tube proximate to the previously thickened tube wall at least one additional time to thereby thicken the wall of the tube over an axial distance approximating the length of the desired chamber;
- (e) heating the thickened wall area of the tube;

(f) positioning a mold having an elongated chamber cavity over the heated thickened wall area, the chamber cavity being asymmetrical in at least one longitudinal cross-section;

(g) internally pressurizing the tube to expand the heated thickened area of the tube against the internal wall of the mold cavity to thereby form a chamber in the tube; and

(h) removing the mold from the chamber to thereby provide an arc tube chamber intermediate open tubular end portions. - -

- - 20. (New) The method of Claim 19 wherein the chamber cavity is symmetrical in at least one longitudinal cross-section. - -

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- - 21. (New) The method of Claim 20 wherein a symmetrical cross-section is perpendicular to an asymmetrical cross-section. - -

- - 22. (New) The method of Claim 19 wherein the mold cavity has a flattened area. - -

- - 23. (New) The method of Claim 22 wherein the flattened area of said mold cavity is positioned in the uppermost area of said mold cavity. - -

- - 24. (New) The method of Claim 22 wherein the flattened area of said mold cavity is positioned in the lowermost area of said mold cavity. - -

- - 25. (New) The method of Claim 22 wherein the mold is split in two portions. - -

- - 26. (New) The method of Claim 25 wherein only one portion of the mold defines the flattened area of the mold cavity. - -

- - 27. (New) A mold for forming an elongated bulbous chamber intermediate tubular end portions in an arc tube, said mold defining a cavity being asymmetrical in at least one longitudinal cross-section.